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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOMAK 134//

TO ADAMS/BARBIAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE

WH51758

TOMAK 134

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1975

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

FROM: BRENT SCMCROFT

THE PRESIDENT MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH SCHLESINGER TO HEAR THE REPORT OF HIS TRIP TO JAPAN AND KOREA. SCHLESINGER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE OTHER ISSUES AS WELL.

IN HIS DISCUSSION OF JAPAN HE MENTIONED THAT THE JAPANESE SEEMED TO BE BECOMING MORE AWARE OF SECURITY BUT THAT IT WAS A SLOW PROCESS. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON US SHIPS IN JAPAN. SCHLESINGER SAID HODGSON RECOMMENDED THEIR REMOVAL BUT THE PRESIDENT DEMURED AND SUGGESTED HE JUST KEEP SILENT, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.

ON KOREA, SCHLESINGER SAID PAK TOLD HIM HE WAS PREPARED TO SPEND SUBSTANTIALLY ON FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND WANTED FROM THE U.S. ONLY ABOUT \$1 BILLION IN CREDITS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE PROS AND CONS OF A U.S. COMMITMENT TO HELP DEFEND THE NORTHWEST ISLANDS, WITH NOTHING DEFINITIVE EMERGING.

IN CONNECTION WITH TURNING OVER NIKI HERCULES TO THE KOREANS, SCHLESINGER SAID HE SHOULD TRY TO GET A CHANGE IN THE LAW WHICH REQUIRES COSTING OF EXCESS MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT ONE THIRD ORIGINAL COSTS.

SCHLESINGER NEXT RAISED ADMIRAL GAYLER. IN ESSENCE, HE SAID HE HAD PLANNED TO REPLACE GAYLER THIS YEAR BUT THAT THE NAVY WAS SO THIN IN ITS SENIOR RANKS AT PRESENT THAT THERE

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HAS ACTUALLY NO ONE AVAILABLE TO TAKE HIS PLACE, THIS DISCUSSION CONTINUED FOR SOME TIME AND I INTERJECTED TO THE EXTENT I COULD. THE UPSHOT OF IT WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT INDICATED HE WOULD RELENT AND LET GAYLER STAY ANOTHER YEAR. HE DID IT WITH GREAY LACK OF ENTHUSIASM, BUT I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO BLOCK IT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

SCHLESINGER THEN HANDED THE PRESIDENT A PAPER WHICH HE SAID DEALT WITH ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. HE SAID THAT IT EMPHASIZED THE POINT THAT WE COULD NO LONGER SUPPLY ISRAEL BY DRAWING DOWN FROM THEIR OWN INVENTORIES. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD LOOK AT THE PAPER AND GIVE IT TO US TO REVIEW.

SCHLESINGER THEN HANDED THE PRESIDENT A PAPER ON IRAN WHICH HE SAID DEALT WITH THE SHAH'S UNLIMITED APPETITUE FOR NEW EQUIPMENT. THE BASIC PROBLEM, HE FEELS, IS THAT WE ARE BUILDING A U.S. POPULATION OF TECHNICIANS IN IRAN (100,000) WHICH COULD CREATE REAL PROBLEMS FOR US. PRESIDENT AGAIN SAID HE WOULD GIVE THE PAPER TO US FOR ANALYSIS.

ON THE BACKFIRE AIRCRAFT, SCHLESINGER SAID DEFENSE HAS REVIEWED ITS CAPABILITY AND LOWERED IT SOMEWHAT BUT NOT ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE SITUATION MATERIALLY. HE SAID THAT THE RANGE BASICALLY WAS A FUNCTION OF THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE AIRCRAFT WOULD FLY AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS.

THE LAST ITEM HE BROUGHT UP WAS MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR THE YUGOSLAVS. HE SAID HE HAD AUTHORIZED SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UP TO "SECRET" AND THAT SHOULD HELP RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. I AM NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT THAT MEANS BUT WILL FIND OUT.

ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A TYPICAL SCHLESINGER PERFORMANCE. I DEFINITELY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NOT OVERJOYED AT THESE SESSIONS.

WARM REGARDS,
0570

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